

Rebel

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ELECTIONS OVER THE STRUGGLE GOES ON!

ELECTIONS CANNOT BUILD A NEW SOCIETY.
BUT ELECTIONS ARE POINTS OF WEAKNESS FOR CAPITAL & THE STATE.
ESPECIALLY WHEN THE RULING CLASS IS IN CRISIS, WEAK AND IMMOBILISED.
IN THIS PARTICULAR SENSE, THE FEB. 18TH ELECTIONS WERE NOT A DEFEAT
FOR THE WORKING PEOPLE.
IT WAS A DEFEAT THOUGH FOR SECTIONS OF THE RULING CLASS - FOR THE
ELECTION SYSTEM.
IT WAS ALSO A DEFEAT FOR ALL THOSE WHO DESIRE 'STABILITY' AND 'ORDER'
IN ORDER TO PROFIT BETTER AND RULE EASIER.
OUR ENEMY IS WEAK - WE ARE DISORGANISED.
BUT OUR 'POTENTIAL STRENGTH' IS OBVIOUS FOR ALL TO SEE - THE TIME IS
RIPE NOW TO ORGANISE AND MOVE FORWARD.

Contents

Elections.....	p. 2
North - Resistance.....	p. 3
Rape Interview.....	p.4/5
Workers Struggles.....	p.6/7
Munster Anti-Pollution...	p. 8
Anti Toxic Conference.....	p. 9
Classified.....	p. 10
Poland.....	p. 11
Editorial.....	p. 12

ELECTION '82

News Focus



FF 81 FG 63 LAB 15

Feb. 18th 1982. One more step towards democracy. The day in Free State politics when the great general public ('the electorate') would make their choice and vote for new rulers. It's strange how 'democratic' the ruling class becomes when elections approach....in other times, that very same 'great general public' excludes all those who go on strike, all those who fight and all those who revolt. In election times we are united again, a nation once again.

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All the political parties bent over backwards to stress the mess we're in...some offered to even take a wage cut to help 'us' out....but they were all very careful not to take the blame. Anyway, those who were to blame, like Hugh Byrne, Alice Glenn, Síle de Valera, Mark Killala, Sean Moore etc were *sacked*.... even that poor lady Eileen Lemass who was nearly crying on the radio that she won't be able to afford her 'huge' mortgage anymore...terrible isn't it? Responsible politicians, on the other hand, got re-elected.... so justice was done. Justice!

When the count was over, what were we left with? A Dail which won't be able to function....a Fianna Fail which will probably be able to form a government *but not to govern*. A Fine Gael which held its own but will not be in Government, and a Labour Party which doesn't know whether it's coming or going. Some of them will hang on grimly on the Blueshirts' coat tails...especially O'Leary who got overtaken by Tony Gregory and got in on the very last count without getting the quota.

On the reformist side, Kemmy did very well...his fate demands a proper article and that won't be and can't be done here. The Sticks, on the other hand, reaped the bitter harvest of their compromise and populism. The fact that people like De Rossa and Gallagher got in is a positive thing: on the one hand it increases the depth of the crisis of the ruling class, and



Joe Sherlock



Proinsias de Rossa



Paddy Gallagher

SFWP 3

IND 4

On the other hand, it gives the opportunity to really judge these people on ACTION and MERIT and not just words....it gives them enough rope to hang themselves.

As for the anti-imperialist left....the word is disaster. They may try to rationalise it, they may try to say it's only the beginning....but they can't hide the bitter reality of their wrong analysis, their divided tactics and their useless performance. In Cavan Monaghan, the H-Block vote went to Fianna Fail, in Waterford it went to the Sticks and in most other places it got diffused and it disintegrated to such an extent that it can't be even analysed.

Sinn Fein did terrible, the IRSP even worse, the CPIML pathetic, and as for that heavy presence of Bernadette McAliskey under the PD umbrella....what can one say.

We believe that both the pre-election tactics of the Left, and its actual performance poses

unity and participation in elections....we intend to play our role in discussing and debating this issue and making concrete proposals

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A number of things are clear already: the results of Feb.18th re-enforce our view we explained after the June '81 elections. The people of this country are divided....at the same time, there is a political maturity growing which plays one set of liars against another and produces this stalemate situation. Through their vote, the working people are saying what our cover says clearly: The elections are over....the crisis is going on....elections don't solve the crisis...they reflect it!

And that's why the ruling class agrees on the fundamentals while disagreeing on tactics: more repression, more calls for wage restraint, more prisons and cops....that's the future they offer. And that's why their Dail

IN THE 6 COUNTIES THE GROWING OFFENSIVE BY THE ARMED FORCES OF THE BRITISH CONTINUES TO PUSH THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST MOVEMENT INTO A SEVERE RETREAT. IS FORECASTED IN LAST REEL 49 THREE WEEKS AGO, THE ARMY, THE RUC AND THE UDR HAVE ACCELERATED THEIR ATTACKS AND HAVE INTRODUCED AN INFORMAL FORM OF INTERNMENT FOR ANYONE THEY CONSIDER ASSOCIATED WITH THE ARMED ANTI-IMPERIALIST ORGANISATIONS.

RESISTANCE SUFFERING

In the past month alone, over 50 comrades have been arrested, detained, charged and remanded by the RUC. The State says all of them are members of either the IRA or the INLA. Many of the detainees have been charged with extremely serious offences ranging from murder to attempted murder to conspiracy to murder. Others face charges relating to wearing para-military uniforms in funerals, possession of weapons and membership of armed organisations.

These latest swoops have taken a number of important organisers off the streets; most of them will now remain inside for anything up to 18 months before trial and after that with the Diplock Courts, it's anybody's guess.

The State is claiming that the recent arrests are the result of information given to them by ex-militants who're now selling their comrades out. Though it is evident that the State is likely to exaggerate the numbers and political importance of these informers, a number of factors point to a serious problem whose acuteness is far from being negligible.

In what concerns the IRA, it is now well established that an old middle cadre of the Belfast Brigade was brought back from Canada by the British. Under heavy protection, he has pointed the finger at a number of militants for actions going back as far as 1975!! According to the RUC, Jim Gibney, a leader of Belfast SF and prominent organiser of the recent H-Block/Armagh Campaign, was charged with a murder as a result of the info given by this individual whom the British Press have baptised "the supergrass".

Another significant aspect of this story has been a recent statement by the IRA, carried by An Phoblacht/Republican News, according to which the Republican Army afforded "amnesty" to ALL informers provided they contacted the IRA and admitted their "crimes" before a certain date. This statement will probably come to be seen as a watershed in the proud history of the Republican Movement!

What made it most surprising was its lack of any hint of self-criticism, its lack of any trace of analysis or even an attempt to try to search out the political causes of the problem of 'informing'. Instead, adopting a magnanimous and paternalistic tone, it provided a 'technical' solution to the crisis, and probably

served no other purpose except to admit the seriousness of the cancer growing inside the ranks of the armed resistance.

It was also noteworthy that the same statement, while welcoming back to the fold informers of all kinds, it denied any amnesty to "all those convicted of anti-social crimes". In other words, the RM will continually to shoot petty thieves and rebellious young people while it is spreading its graciousness to people who have sold out to the enemy!! There is a lesson there somewhere.

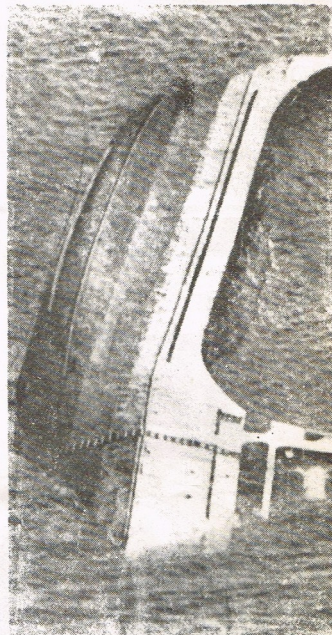
As for the INLA, they were hit by the after-effects of the above. The ex-Provo supergrass, we have been told, pointed out to the RUC the existence of another man, also ex-member of the IRA, who was now close to the INLA. This individual was broken under Castlereagh interrogation and fingered all (or part of) his contacts in the INLA. The RUC proceeded to charge many comrades with any actions, claimed by the INLA recently, they could muster. While our comrades of the INLA admit the heavy loss, they maintain that their structures have withstood the attack and their work continues "as before".

Rebel says

The general effect of these latest series of arrests, has been a severe demoralisation for the working class people in the nationalist areas who have sustained the war for so long. The disastrous economic situation, the unemployment which has reached an all time high of 20% province-wide and probably is 1:2 people in the ghettos and all the political divisions are making life very hard in the 6 Counties right now.

It is our deeply held belief that the event we are witnessing over the past 3 months, are the delayed effects of the tragic defeat suffered by the anti-imperialist movement in the H-Block/Armagh struggle. That defeat, that incapacity to carry through the initial initiative and nationalise the struggle, has left a time bomb, nay a number of time bombs, with delayed fuses ticking under the body of the movement.

As hundreds of militants were flushed out into the open, the painstaking work of intelligence gathering by the Crown Forces continued... as divisions broke out into the open, secret wounds began to fester inside the



political body of the movement... as emotionalism swept the board and replaced cool-headedness and analysis, "Party building" by various sections of the resistance shattered any hope of unity and assured isolation.

Now the bombs are beginning to go off! This is a defeat we were able to predict so accurately but were painfully incapable to influence or avert!

Last Wednesday's Lough Foyle operation shows that the Republican Movement still retains its cutting imagination, fearlessness and patience. We need to make operations like that one our watchword. Patience, good ground work, open supply and retreat lines. The last thing we need is desperation tactics and suicidal hasty moves.

We believe that the lost ground can be recuperated and the lost time made up.

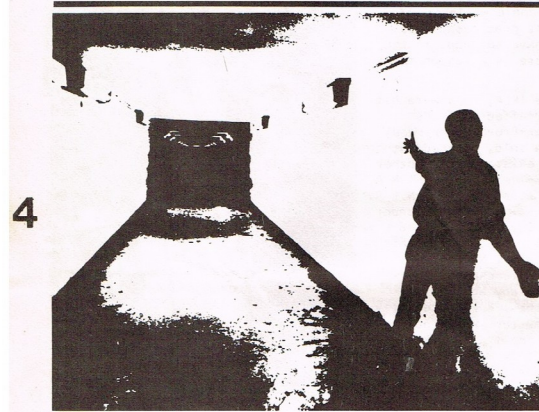
We will try to contribute to the limit of our possibilities to try to heal our wounds and gaping contradictions. It's a battle that must be fought this one... because if we lose our momentary defeat will turn into a collapse.

(See also Editorial in p.12)

RAPE AND GENERAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN HAVE BEEN MAKING THE HEADLINES RECENTLY. A LOT OF INK HAS BEEN SPENT DISCUSSING THE PROS AND CONS OF DEMANDING FROM THE STATE TO 'PUNISH' THE RAPISTS. ANOTHER QUESTION WHICH HAS RAISED A LOT OF CONTROVERSY HAS BEEN THE ATTEMPT BY MANY WOMEN TO ORGANISE THEIR 'SELF-DEFENCE' IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM RAPISTS....LARGE CAMPAIGNS LIKE THE ONE CALLED 'TAKE OVER THE NIGHT' IN THE U.S.A. HAVE BEEN ATTACKED BY MANY PEOPLE AS AN EXPLICITLY ANTI-BLACK AND ANTI-WORKING CLASS MOBILISATION EFFORT BY MIDDLE CLASS PEOPLE SUPPORTED BY THE STATE.

IN IRELAND, WHILE THE NUMBER OF RAPES ARE ON THE INCREASE, ORGANISED DEBATE ON THE QUESTION IS STILL IN ITS INFANCY. THE ATTITUDES OF MANY REVOLUTIONARY MILITANTS TO THE QUESTION, AND ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT, IS AMBIGUOUS TO SAY THE LEAST.

BELOW, WE PRESENT AN INTERVIEW WITH 4 WOMEN MILITANTS - MEMBERS OF RS - ON THE QUESTION OF RAPE. WE INVITE COMMENTS AND UNDERTAKE TO PUBLISH ALL LETTERS RECEIVED ON THE QUESTION.



RAPE RS women speak

REBEL: *There has been a lot of media coverage on the question of rape recently. Could you give me an initial response of how this whole development strikes you as women, as mothers and as revolutionary militants?*

A: Rape always gets into the news from time to time - mainly to sell papers. The occasions that something practical comes out of the whole noise are very rare.

B: I agree - everytime I read another 'horror' story I think to myself 'Here we go again'. Rape comes up every so often, then you don't hear anything about it. It's the same like the question of drugs; it tickles people.

C: I can't see any positive elements coming out of the media coverage either. I can see no re-education. For example the paper stories don't deal at all with the question of how the raped woman is going to cope with it....there's always the hints that 'she may have brought it on herself'. It's more or less expected, 'rape is rape', people tell you.

D: I feel a bit different about the recent coverage. First of all, the whole emphasis has been on laws and courts. All the statements made tend to 'push' the State to 'tighten' its laws so that people spend more time inside. We read very little about the situation of women who have been raped....and especially why is society producing rapists and rape.

Then there is the other question. Very many people, even if they mean well, expect a woman NOT to be able to deal with rape. If you find a way to keep yourself together, if you don't fall to bits, if you can deal with....then there's something wrong with you. If you're a 'moral' woman then you are supposed to be destroyed by it. People expect a woman who has been raped to be desperate, afraid....if you deal with the experience in a calm and thoughtful way then they wonder if it really happened.

E: You know like that HIV film on rape...it wasn't until the woman began to sob

uncontrollably that the cops began to believe her.

C: The only positive thing which has come out of the recent publicity is the criticism of the cops and the courts system....there are of course still people who defend the cops' attitude....but I agree with what has been said so far, I'm not interested in pushing for more repressive legislation for more prisons or for people to get locked up for longer periods.

A: I'll tell you one thing - the way people discuss rape in relation to the law will not change until some woman damages a man who tries to rape her. Will they accept then that it was *legitimate defence*? It happened in the States, and the woman went down. There was a big campaign about it.

I don't think prison is the answer. I'm more interested in how women learn to defend themselves. The RAPE CRISIS CENTRE in Dublin says women are usually raped by people who know them. This makes the whole legal scene very complicated because they have to denounce a person from a close family. I think, for the time being, self-defence has to be part of the answer. I want to discuss how far we are prepared to go. With it being illegal to carry weapons etc.

B: Things are even more complicated than this, one because the law doesn't recognise rape unless you defend yourself, but also because many women refuse to put up a fight because they're worried they may get torn apart.

REBEL: *How do you explain the fact that rape is flaring up at this period of crisis?*

D: The State has the tendency to focus on inter-personal violence, violence among the people, at times when anti-State violence is on the increase. Thus, they'll talk about rape but refuse categorically to discuss the reasons which produce rape. I tend to instinctively reject this....I realise, of course, that this type of inter-personal violence destroys and fucks people up; but I can't bear seeing the State use this situation. They portray ALL violence as inter-personal violence....and then they proceed to building more prisons. They always talk of violence in their own terms.

C: They use all this talk about rape to distract from anti-State violence. You can see the Thatcher Government jumping on the rape bandwagon and appearing as defenders of women who are being attacked daily...socially, politically & economically.

REBEL: *Do you think that there is an adequate recognition by the people of the extent of the problem - of how serious the rape figures are?*



things is not easy. With men is even more difficult.

B: Marilyn French's 'The Womens Room' concludes that all men are potential rapists. My view is that this kind of argument puts an end to all communication between men and women and women who have # women who haven't been raped. The book argues that there are irreconcilable differences and contradictions between men and women. I don't agree with that. If you take that line the only way you can go is to target a matriarchal society rather than a communist society...to become a feminist

D: Different interpretations of what French is saying are also possible. I tell you one thing: I keep feeling sorry for them men.

REBEL: I want to ask you one final question: What kind of contribution can a political organisation such as ours make to the situation women face everyday of their lives?

D: The difficulty in answering this question is that women are raped when they're on their OWN. A political organisation doesn't have the space or the opportunity to influence that moment of crisis. It can only contribute to the before and the after. Support after a rape is crucial; women desperately need an open and not prejudiced type of support.

A: On the before, self-defence, training, being able to handle contact, being able to hit...learning these things has an effect. But the actual situation of rape...it's so complex and unpredictable that I can't see how a political organisation can influence it. Except through education of people, fighting for a new society. I don't think there are any short-term solutions to rape.

A: I also intend to defend myself. The next time it happens I will try to hurt the man...I don't know how and to what lengths I will go but I am convinced I will make him pay. I will go as far as kneecapping.. this may be considered as reactionary by some but that's how I feel right now. What I went through last time, the pain, the courts, it took me a long time to get over it. It MAY have turned out easier if I had done something about it there and then.

D: I have been raped twice: once here and once in the States. I didn't manage to defend myself. I don't feel ashamed of that - or proud. That's why I feel, as a member of a political organisation and working with men, that is important to know that men and women can relate and work together without violence - which doesn't mean the absence of disagreement. Of course, all this doesn't solve the immediate possibility that it may happen again tomorrow - in one sense, I feel it's too easy to talk about self-defence. Knives or screwdrivers wouldn't have done me any good...it was impossible.

REBEL: Do you find it hard to talk to other women or men about rape?

C: Yes. Take an example the film 'Cruising'... progressive people all over the world tried to ban this film because it was highly insulting to men...young men.

Here nobody moved. How can you talk to other men on these questions in the absence of any debate or even letters to the papers? I can't see how serious collective discussion can get off the ground. And I think this is dangerous...if women begin to feel a collective sense of being let down...then morbid things like women vigilantes going out and shooting men, any man, begin to appear.

A: Women who have been raped feel differently about rape from other women who have been spared the experience. It's hard...communication on these

B: It's a silent recognition. A silent assumption that rape is a fact of life - like car accidents. But it is very unlikely that it will happen to you.

A: Women recognise the extent of the problem - especially vis-a-vis their daughters. Women are afraid - they prefer to stay in at night...the general public recognition of the problem that's a complex thing.

C: You see the problem starts very early - among young people. Women and men are segregated at school, at discos, at pubs even in street gangs. Relationships between young women and men develop in an uncomprehending#unnatural#sterile and wasteful type of environment...friendship is a word people laugh at nowadays.

Take the dances - women pour in at around 10, the men come after the pub closes. The whole night is geared for the male hunter...women are supposed to be the prey. That's where it starts even if it seems off the point to talk of dances and rape in the same breath.

A: It's a power struggle; it starts right back from the school age.

B: And even before that: the pink#blue...images of what is expected and the devil take you if you don't conform. And if you go on arguing people don't understand you...it's a man you're after anyway. You can't go out with your girl friends and have a good time - she's queer people keep saying about you.

REBEL: Does each one of you personally see rape as something which MAY happen to you? And if it does how do you think you're going to react to it?

C: I carry a 3" blade and intend to use it. I don't care if it's illegal.

B: I have a screwdriver and I will defend myself as much as possible.



WOMEN against VIOLENCE



CORPORATION STRIKE

The dispute involving Dublin Corporation workers continues after two weeks. The men, general workers, are demanding *travel money*, about £9 per week, in line with craftsmen. The craftsmen got the money before Christmas '81, backdated to January '81. The best offer for general workers was put to the men, following labour court recommendations. It was rejected by about 750;500. This offer was to backdate money from Oct. '81.

Comrades from Ballymun have told Rebel that the heating in the flats was cut off for a period last week as a result of the strike but it was restored following an agreement by general workers to let craftsmen through the pickets. On Friday 14th, the situation was getting desperate with the cold weather - most of the flats have no alternative heating of any type. The families, many with young children, blocked the main roads at several points and in the heat of the election campaign, they were joined by local election hopefuls.

Hugh Byrne, local drug pusher for Fine Gael who was defeated in the elections, was thrown off the picket line - that didn't stop him from sending a leaflet around when the heating was restored, to tell the people that it was him who had the problem solved. Local S.F.W.P. countered this claim with another leaflet, claiming it was them who had settled the dispute and threatening to get it cut off again to prove their point. De Rossa, who was successful where the local doctor failed, issued a joint statement with McGiolla, his leader, asking the government to give money to the Corpo for the general workers.

The present dispute over travel money goes back to 1980 when general workers won a travelling allowance of £1.87 a week - this figure is now completely inadequate with the mounting transport costs. The present claim for £9 was lodged in January 1981.

Rebel talked about the strike to one Corporation workers. Below are his views on the dispute, the actions of the Corpo and the role of the Trade unions. We invite debate on all the questions raised by the article.

Interview

REBEL: WOULD YOU TALK TO US ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE TRADE UNIONS IN PROCESSING THIS CLAIM SINCE LAST JANUARY?

Tom: I find it hard to distinguish between the Corpo officials and the union officials. Just look at the length of time they took to come up with an offer. Our travelling money of £1.87 has been eroded since 1980 with bus fares going up every four months. Who could

travel to work and back for a week on that kind of money?

REBEL: HOW DID THE STRIKE START EVENTUALLY?

Tom: Negotiations were dragging on between the Corporation and the Unions and they finally had to give them strike notice due to pressure from the men. They came back with a miserable offer of £9 a week which wasn't backdated

Material for Analysis

to '81...and then they added at least 7 clauses of conditions on that £9 a week. They were all rejected - the offer was rejected.

REBEL: HAVE THERE BEEN ANY MEETINGS SINCE?

Tom: Well, the following Sunday after the Labour Court recommended in favour of the mens claim; but the Corporation pleaded inability to pay, they said they had no money. of course the Unions strongly urged their members to accept the offer. They were not beneath using blackmail in trying to cause more divisions between the workers.

REBEL: WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

Tom: They told us that the travelling money which had just been won by the office cleaners would be taken away by the corporation if the other workers didn't accept the offer. This was at the Transport meeting which the office cleaners were at. Ballot papers were sent around but the T.U. officials did not explain what the vote was for - it was to accept or not the Corpo offer but a lot of members didn't understand what they were voting on, many thought they were voting for or against continuing the strike but it turned out to be a ballot on accepting or rejecting the offer. I blame the Union officials for this.

REBEL: HOW IS THE STRIKE GOING?

Tom: It's going very well. It's very effective at the sewerage works, the water works...the porters and all the general workers are out. Of course, the private hauliers are strike breaking.

REBEL: HAS ANYTHING BEEN DONE ABOUT THAT?

Tom: The Trade Unions instructed local branches to form vigilante groups to get the numbers...again, I think it's totally ineffective, as the main tipheads are open.

REBEL: DID YOU GET ANY MONEY LAST WEEK? HOW IS THE GENERAL MONEY SITUATION?

Tom: We got our back week but there was problems about getting our money. A phone call came down to our depot, apparently from the Municipal Union, that the porters wouldn't let the cheques out because the Union said they had accepted the offer and were trying to break the strike. This turned out to be a rumour and was totally untrue.

Working class struggles

The porters were still on strike and were willing to let the cheques out but the Corporation wouldn't.

The porters got a lot of abuse over that; it's just another dirty trick by the Corpo which didn't go according to plan of trying to turn worker against worker. After all that the corpo would still not release the cheques...the firemen came out and stopped work for one hour in each of the depots because of non-payment of their wages.

REBEL DID YOU GET PAID AT THE END?

Tom: Yes, but not without hassle. The wages of the paving section were held up over another incident. An employee in the wages section was sacked for refusing to pass the picket; this was on Friday morning. The rest of the staff threatened to walk out if she wasn't reinstated. This is still another tactic just to inconvenience and aggravate the men. They are very bitter against the Corpo and the trade unions in the way they're handling this dispute. (THERE IS TALK OF SEETING OUR OWN TRADE UNIONS - but that was mostly canteen talk. It never goes any further - people feel trapped and don't realise the strength we have.

REBEL ISN'T THE STRIKE GENERATING ANY FEELING OF POWER?

Tom: Yes, the strength is being felt now that the strike is on but when this is settled it will just sink back into the old ways - and people will stop going to meetings. Very few have any faith in the unions...many don't even know that they have the right to join any union or group of their choice. But the corpo has put on the frighteners by talk of non-recognition....which gives workers the impression that their job security may be threatened. This is very convenient for both the Corpo and the Unions - they can maintain their cosy 'buddy' relationship.

All of the 'leadership', Pyke, Redmond and Murphy all strongly recommended that we accept - 'BECAUSE THE CORPO HAS NO MONEY' they kept telling us.

REBEL: DO YOU THINK THAT AN ALL OUT PICKET WHICH THE UNIONS ARE LOOKING FOR, WILL HAVE MUCH EFFECT ON YOUR STRIKE?

Tom: I think it would force the corporation to settle - because the army couldn't do all

sections, could only do cleansing and pumping stations. The government wouldn't use the army for all sections anyway - they'd just let the others go to hell. But this talk of 'all out' is more of a threatening noise from the unions than anything serious - if they were serious we wouldn't be waiting a year and a half on our claim.

REBEL: HOW DO YOU THINK THE UNIONS WOULD REACT TO THE ARMY BREAKING A GENERAL STRIKE?

Tom: They'd probably still ask us to take the numbers of the vehicles, but there is only one number I'm interested in that's £9 per week backdated to Jan. 81 which the date we put in our claim.

REBEL 47 REPORTED AN 'UGLY' STRIKE IN THE ENGLISH-OWNED FIRM OF 'AULT & WIBERG', THE COMPANY HAD WON AN INJUNCTION AGAINST 8 WORKERS, MEMBERS OF AGE100, WHO WERE OCCUPYING THE PREMISES AND WERE JAILED FOR A NIGHT, AFTER THEY DEFIED THE ORDER OF THE COURT.



AULT & WIBERG

The dispute has continued for the last 3 months; a second injunction was brought on behalf of the strike breakers, with strong backing from the company, to stop the eight workers from picketing the firm. The strike breakers argued that they were being intimidated. The pickets continued nonetheless....though the Gardai threatened arrests which did not materialise.

In the meantime, the Manager of AULT & WIBERG went down to the social welfare demanding to know how it was possible for these men to be classified as being 'available for work' and be given benefit, when they were on continuous picket duty.

The social welfare hacks agreed and the collusion between state and capital created a situation where the workers are getting no income. The best offer from the company, who do not want

these particular men back under any circumstances, but are under pressure from the English Head office to get back to full production as soon as possible, is that they will take one man back every 6 months starting from 1983!

AULT & WIBERG is receiving an IDA grant to the tune of £150,000 as a manufacturing industry, while it imports most of its produce. Some production is taking place in the J.F.K Estate premises under the supervision of managerial staff along with a few men from the Transport Union (ITGWU). Careful readers of Rebel may have also noticed that AULT & WIBERG recently made headlines for producing paint of a highly toxic nature with a lead base so high that at least one painter collapsed in pain.

In the next issue of Rebel we will have an extended interview with the fighting workers of AULT & WIBERG.

INTERVIEW



REBEL What is the background and history of MAPC?

JERRY The MAPC is a sub-committee of the Munster Regional Trout Anglers Association, which has a membership of 55 Munster Trout Angling Clubs, and approx. 5,000 trout anglers. The Anti-Pollution Committee was formed in 1976 because of the frustration expressed by anglers at the deterioration of our rivers. There are five people on the committee, we meet once a month, finance comes from anglers pockets. We aimed to explore ways and means of fighting pollution and to set up Watch-Dog committees for rivers in Munster.

The MAPC is the nerve centre of 5 watchdog committees Upper Black water Federation, United Trout Anglers in the lower Blackwater, the Suir Anti Pollution Society, United Trout Anglers in Limerick County, the Kerry Anti-Pollution Committee and has a hotline to the Fishery Board, the Dept. of the Environment, the Dept of Fisheries, Local Council Engineers and County Managers. I maintain that cooperation is better than agitation. It's better to sit down with people, put your case to them. But sometimes it's necessary to take off the velvet gloves. We haven't been wanting in either of these regards. Our job is to monitor and to generate informed public awareness, not hysteria.

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REBEL What are the major sources of pollution?

JERRY Early on, it was mainly the intensive farming; pig and cattle slurry and fertilisers. Local councils not treating the sewage adequately and the food processing industry, chemical industry and waste dumping. Inadequate financial muscle in local councils, though individuals on councils are good, and lack of back up from the Dept of Environment in specialised equipment and personnel. In the past 6 to 10 years, the political structure has been such that the Water Pollution Act is not

The interview below is with Jerry Keating, Chairman of the Munster Anti-Pollution Committee (MAPC), a group of people we hear little of but who have been consistently fighting back against the dumping by industrial capital.

MUNSTER ANTI-POLLUTION COMMITTEE

enforced. It's cheaper to pollute and pay a fine than it is to treat polluting substances.

REBEL What major campaigns has MAPC fought?

JERRY Mitchelstown Creameries, Ballylough, Cadbury in Rathmore, Eli Lilly in Kinsale have all installed huge treatment plants following pressure and negotiations from the MAPC and other groups in the case of Eli Lilly.

At present we're involved in getting town sewage treatment plants in Mallow and Thurles completed and in ensuring an adequate treatment plant for Killarney. Studies from the University of London and the Swedish University show that the usual two-phase treatment plant for sewage cannot neutralise wash-up liquid. This requires a third phase in which acid is injected; the two-phase plant in Killarney is thus inadequate.

A major breakthrough was 3 years ago when I negotiated for and won, in a meeting with An Taisce, Bord Failte, the Thurles Urban Council chairperson, the County Manager and the Irish Sugar company, a £20,000 restocking of fish killed by the Irish Sugar Company, paid for by the Sugar company.

Cadbury Ireland, Ballyclough and Rathduff cheese factories have also had to restock following fish kills. It's more costly than fines - a victory in court is often purely academic. We have also been involved in and won campaigns against waste dumps being sited beside rivers in Fermoy, one near Mallow and one in Doneraile.

REBEL Would you expand on the earlier points about how political structures contribute to pollution?

JERRY Protection of the environment is low in politicians priorities - there are no votes in it. There's a clash between the Government, pollution and employment. The situation in Ireland is like the situation in America earlier this century i.e. factories use intimidation, they say they're being forced to close if they're not allowed to pollute. The worker is the pawn in this. Until the U.S. and Irish Governments grasp the nettle on this one, pollution will be rampant.

When it comes to the chemical industry we can't control it, our pollution laws are so weak, and we have so little information. The proof of this is the spill of 5,000 gals of chrome into the Rivers Gradogue and Funcheon in June 1980. That spill got worldwide publicity - now the handling of waste

like that has gone underground. No one knows about it except people close to the chemical industry. It's an environmental time-bomb, similar to Love Canal - the waste could be anywhere. A country the size of Ireland, with a wet climate has a lot of underground watercourses. If they're polluted, they can't be treated and can poison people and animals miles away from where they surface.

We have raw materials in our country and in our people, which are like gold to a tourist trade. But Bord Failte is spending millions abroad, advertising this, while the IDA and other Irish Industries like the milk and food processing industries are polluting right here. It's a farcical situation. If the IDA and the Government decide to be hoodwinked by the multinationals and introduce factories which are environmental time-bombs, this is what we get. It's very sad that the game of politics allows human lives to be used for jobs at any expense to glorify the name of a particular party in power.

Bringing in multinationals which are more powerful than the government can destroy a whole area, like in Bantry Bay where Gulf Oil thumb their noses at regulations and finally pulled the plug and left the people struggling.

In the final analysis, it's the few, like the commercial dumpers, who are making a living out of Ireland being left behind the industrial age. Industrialisation has only taken place in Ireland over the last few years. England and the U.S. have made major catastrophic mistakes and now they have to cure the ills. We need jobs but not at any price. If multinationals come in, it must be on our terms, not theirs. Everyone in Ireland should voice their opinions and write to all bodies concerned. Not hysterically, but with a balanced outlook. We need work, but I reckon that up to 50% of sicknesses in our hospitals are due to environmental illnesses.

REBEL Cork County Council have promised a national central toxic waste dump, what do you think?

JERRY I completely disagree with using waste as landfill. There are ways and means of on-site treatment which should be used and enforced. Proper environmental planning and a strict monitoring programme can lead to a proper relation between industry and the environment. The enforcing of pollution laws needs a courageous political endeavour.

Anti-Toxic Struggles

THE ALLIANCE FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH (A.S.H.) IS ORGANISING A NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TOXIC PRODUCTION / TOXIC DUMPING / SAFETY AT WORK AND OTHER RELATED ISSUES ON THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 5TH-7TH NEXT.

THE WORKSHOPS PLANNED FOR THE CONFERENCE (see full programme below), THE RESPONSE RECEIVED SO FAR, THE INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL SPEAKERS PLANNED - THEY ALL PROMISE AN EXCITING CONFERENCETHE EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE IN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK, A.S.H. COMRADES ARE ORGANISING ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND PLENTY OF ENJOYMENT FOR EVERYBODY, A FULL CRECHE WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED SO BRING THE KIDDIES ALONG.

(For people going from Dublin the bus leaves on Friday March 5th, 6.00 in the afternoon, from Parnell Square near the Art Gallery. Return fare £ 10)

* *



Times and faces

A.S.H

The Alliance for Safety and Health (A.S.H.) was formed in Dublin last October 1981, by groups and individuals active on the issues of the hazards of certain work processes, toxic waste and dangerous products. It decided to hold a National Public Conference on the theme 'Hazards at Work and Poisons in the Environment' which will examine both workplace and environmental hazards.

The Conference is intended for information, discussion and debate as well as building organisation and planning future activity among those concerned with the threats to health posed by the toxic cycle in Ireland and worldwide.

As is indicated in the programme, there will be three general sessions which will introduce the workshops where people can discuss and expand on the various aspects of each theme.

A.S.H. is also producing a 50-page pamphlet on Toxic Production which will be available at the Conference.

For further information, contact A.S.H. at the address below or come to U.C.C. on March 5th-7th. ALL ARE WELCOME.

A.S.H.
Box 1240
Hamilton St.
Dublin 8.

SATURDAY MARCH 6TH			SUNDAY MARCH 7TH		
9.30 A.M. CONFERENCE OPENING			10.00-11.30 GENERAL SESSION C :		
10.00 A.M. GENERAL SESSION A : <i>The Future We Face</i>			Speaker: Seamus Connolly (Cork I.T.G.W.U. and Council of Trade Unions) . <i>Hazards and Safety in Workplaces</i>		
Speakers: Mike Cooley (The Open University) <i>The Implementation of New Technology</i> Mike Youlton (Rebel newspaper) <i>Economic crisis in Ireland</i> <i>Toxic cycle and new technology</i>					
11-11.30 A.M. COFFEE BREAK			11-11.30 A.M. COFFEE BREAK		
11.30 - 1 P.M. WORKSHOPS			11.30- 1.30 P.M. WORKSHOPS		
1 <i>New Technology, hazards in office and general service sector.</i>		2 <i>Toxic Production. The Right to Reproduce freely and safely. Lead as a threat.</i>	6 <i>Waterway Pollution</i>	7 <i>Safety at Work Noise in Industry</i>	8 <i>Discussion on the 'New Technology' video or Mini-bus tour of Cork Harbour area.</i>
1-2 P.M. LUNCH BREAK VIDEO ☆			1.30 - 2.30 P.M. LUNCH BREAK		
2 P.M. GENERAL SESSION B : <i>Toxic Dumping & Hazard Handling in Communities.</i>			2.30 P.M. GENERAL AND FINAL OPEN SESSION		
Speakers: Dan Connolly (A.S.H.) <i>Indiscriminate dumping and sites.</i> Fire Officers <i>Transport and Fire Management</i>			Proposals arising from workshops and presentations Proposals arising from discussions and videos. Information on future meetings on environment and hazard related themes Proposals for regional meetings on themes or by locality		
3.30-4.00 P.M. COFFEE BREAK			5.00 P.M. CLOSE OF SESSION		
4.00-6.00 P.M. WORKSHOPS			TIDYING OF VENUE		
<i>Toxic Waste and Dumps: Accounts from communities.</i> 3	<i>Low-level Radiation and the nuclear cycle.</i> 4	<i>Toxic Products - the use of medical and agro - goods.</i> 5			
6.00-6.30 P.M. UNTIL 8.00 P.M. DINNER					
8.30 P.M. ☆ VIDEO: <i>New Technology - Whose Benefit</i>					

JIM MITCHELL, THE SMOOTH TALKING RIGHT-WINGER, DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS RECENTLY. BELOW WE PRINT SOME OF THE FUNNIER OR DEADLIER SIDES OF JIM.....WE'RE FOLLOWING HIM CLOSELY AND WE'LL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

Mitchell's Law



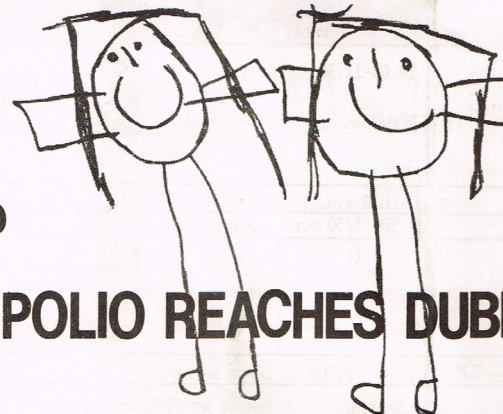
Jim Mitchell (Minister for Justice in the Coalition gvt) has been very much to the fore in attempting to 'bring about changes in the law'. These suggestions include - doing away with the 'right to silence', setting up special Gardai forces, putting everyone in the country on computerised file etc etc.

But these measures will not erode civil liberties' Jim says - so we are assured.

Anyway, when Mitchell attended an angry meeting in Ballyfermot recently, after a stolen car crashed locally, he was asked by a few 'hards' - vigilantes - to - be : 'If we take the law into our hands, will you promise us that we won't be arrested?' The good minister replied; 'No, I can't promise you that you won't go to court... but I CAN PROMISE you, that in the event of a conviction, you won't stay in jail!!'

On another local visit, to Inchicore this time, Jim was travelling with a local crony and two (armed?) Branchmen. He visited the odd supporter and probably in deep thought about his chances he was oblivious to some kids driving a stolen Mark IV Cortina just in front of him.

THE EASTERN HEALTH BOARD HAS RECENTLY PUBLISHED THE FACT THAT A CASE OF POLIO HAS BEEN NOTIFIED IN NORTH INNER CITY DUBLIN. IT WAS THOUGHT THAT THE DISEASE WAS EXTINGUISHED IN IRELAND - EXCEPT FOR CASES CAUSED BY VACCINES IN LABS. THIS DUBLIN CASE IS NOT FROM VACCINE, BUT CAME FROM THE OUTSIDE ENVIRONMENT.



10

POLIO REACHES DUBLIN

The baby who has polio is 16 months old and lives in a Dublin Corporation flats complex has already been affected by partial paralysis in the legs.

With living conditions such as they are in the North Inner City, it is surprising that not more cases of dangerous infectious diseases have been reported. Water pressure on the fourth floor of flats is weak. Rubbish chutes remain blocked for days attracting vermin. Dumping and tipping on the increasing number of

waste and derelict sites is commonplace. There is no provision for the installation of separate bathrooms and modern showers in the flats.

Only one State Agency has dared to locate a building east of Amiens Street: the AnCO Community Workshop in Castleford Rd., in North Wall. Requests by an Instructor to have canteen facilities, showers, changing rooms and other health facilities were formally rejected by AnCO in 1979. There is no chemist, nursery or health facility whatsoever in

CORK NEWS

Robin Power, property speculator and millionaire, who owns or has developing contracts for huge areas of Cork City Centre is at it again....this time he's offering all, or part of, his newly acquired spacious warehouse accommodation (Dwyer's in Washington St.) on lease to the state for use as a courthouse.

This site is opposite the existing Courthouse. A new Southern Circuit of the High Court is due to begin in Cork and Declan Costelloe (Fine Gael *liberal wing* author of the 'Just Society' programme) reckons we need more judges and courts. It's just society I suppose.

* * *

Again in the fair city of Cork, Eileen Desmond of the Labour Party, was not very pleased with a little incident that happened during her campaign. It seems that she had personally given out some 600 leaflets which had **THROW THE GOVERNMENT OUT** in small letters at the bottom until somebody realised the blunder....that somebody was a 'potential' voter who said to her "I thought you were the Government". In an enquiry it was established that another 'someone' had decided to reprint the leaflet from the June '81 election.

Many a true word said in jest!!

* * *

U.C.C. have admitted dumping low level nuclear waste in their grounds at Fota Island in the Cork Harbour. The statement, quoted in the 'Cork Examiner' recently, came as a result of an article in 'Red Herring' magazine which implicated Willie O'Brien's waste disposal company in the scandal.

Fota Island, according to 'Red Herring', was one of the few remaining unspoiled amenities in the industrialised Harbour area and it had been planned to turn it into a nature reserve. It now works out that the lions will have more than T.B. to worry about.

Red Herring magazine is published by the Research Action Group and can be obtained from:

Red Herring
c/o 'In Dublin'
40 Ormond Quay
Dublin 1.

the area.

In Dublin, only the poorest district has seen a case of polio. The priorities of medicine in Ireland are CLASS BASED priorities. 1,000 prescriptions PER DAY are issued to Dublin medical card holders alone for tranquillizers, sedatives, and anti-depressant drugs.... according to the research of the Medico-Social Research Board. Medicine is used to control and pacify....hardly ever to cure and never to prevent!!

Rebel 49 devoted four pages and a cover to the struggle of the Polish workers, described by a member of K.O.R., before the imposition of military rule last December. The following article is drawn from an analysis by Ignacio Ramonet published in *Le Monde Diplomatique* in Paris last month, which adds some additional arguments and facts to the views expressed by the editor of K.O.R.'s paper 'Robotnik'.

Prior to the army takeover of Poland last December, the Soviet Union was watching the evolution of events in Eastern Europe with great anxiety. In October 1981, a Preparatory Committee for Free Trade Unions announced its presence in Czechoslovakia declaring itself for the renewal and liberation of trade unions and the whole society. In Tallin, the capital of Estonia (a soviet republic) an underground organisation, the *United Democratic Front* appeared, through leaflets calling for a strike on December 1st, to protest against rising prices and against political repression. In Lithuania and Ukraine (also soviet republics) Polish events were being followed eagerly by the 1,200,000 Poles living there and in the region of Belorussia.

A Solidarity leader in Szczecin is alleged to have argued in November publicly in a speech that the Soviet Union is systematically exploiting the wealth of Poland. The government is nothing but a band of traitors who have sold out the sovereignty of the country to the Kremlin. Some of the Party Officials should be hung. This speech should be seen in the context of a week during which 320,000 workers were on strike throughout Poland despite appeals from Solidarity leaders to avoid abusing the strike weapon. Lech Walesa personally was running from one end of the country to the other trying to stop wild-cat strikes. Negotiations were opened up between Solidarity and the Party (P.O.U.P.) *United Polish Workers Party* (there is no official Communist Party in Poland), but these reached no conclusion.

Prior to the military seizure of power, regular and irregular militia were formed. General Jaruzelski organised

rural operational groups and urban operational groups. Shortly after, when trainee firecadets occupied their military-run Fire Officers Academy, the Varsovia region of Solidarity sent in workers guards who surrounded the cadets school unarmed, to protect it from attack, and thousands of witnesses stood by, astounded by this paramilitary force. This was the last straw in the confrontation. On 13th December a state of siege was declared. The army substituted for the absence of power being exercised by the Party (P.O.U.P.). By December, P.O.U.P. factory cells had had their offices taken over by Solidarity, their paper and printing machines were being used by Solidarity Self-Management Teams. In the Universities, the P.O.U.P. was doing no better. 100,000 students were on strike insisting on the adoption of a University Reform Law. Base militants of the Party had begun to defect, such as Zbigniew Iwanow of Torun who launched horizontal organisation inside the P.O.U.P., breaking up the isolation of the P.O.U.P. cells linked vertically to the apex of Party authority. His example was followed in Lodz and Poznan with enthusiasm. He was eventually expelled from the Party, only to be elected regional delegate for Solidarity at the Gdansk Conference last Autumn!

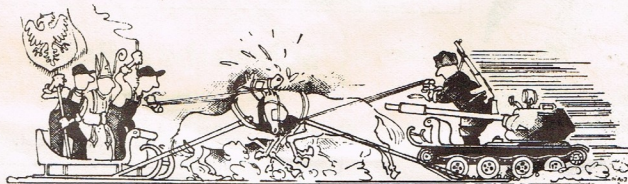
These initiatives contributed to the collapse of the Party in its most sacrosanct instances: the factory and intellectual cells. Solidarity began to take over its party type functions, addressing a letter to workers at the Likhachev factory in Moscow in Russian. They appealed to Russian soldiers (international contacts) stationed in Poland to support for rural hunger marches forging

class alliances. These moves of a political rather than an economic character no doubt reflected the politicisation of Solidarity as well as the political vacuum left in the collapse of P.O.U.P.

Solidarity, in Autumn seemed politically divided between Catholics and Populists around Lech Walesa, advised by several prominent radicals including members of KOR on the one hand, and social democrats, base radicals and explicit socialists on the other. There were also some right-wing tendencies, such as around the Confederation for an Independent Poland. But in September 1981, Lech Walesa was only barely reelected President with 55 per cent of the vote - the remaining 45 per cent shared between 3 more radical candidates.

This neither left him room for manoeuvre then, or in his present situation. It is therefore unlikely that he will agree to negotiations without the presence of former Solidarity leaders. *Le Monde Diplomatique* reports that the fate of J. Kuron and Litynski of KOR are still uncertain.

Yet, the present state of siege is not in the permanent interests of either the Polish Army or Party. Without a *National Understanding or Social Contract* there can be no industrial productivity, relaunch of exports, cut in the balance of payments debt or diminishing of the other symptoms of crisis, which contributed so much to the birth of Solidarity in the first place.



Editorial

In the Editorial of last Rebel 49, we outlined our general approach to political work which is likely to characterise our practice over the coming months. But it is usually the case in politics, the time we thought we had to develop more *tactical aspects* of that strategy suddenly evaporated as the Coalition collapsed and the hurly burly of Dail politics took over. The election results and the recent worrying events in the 6 counties have been treated separately in pages 2 and 3 of this issue of Rebel. Together, they paint a rather disturbing picture.

While the enemy of labour is more divided than ever, the peoples movement, our side, seems incapable of using this space to advance and to consolidate gains. While we appreciate that the isolated gains of progressive people like Tony Gregory, the SFNP contingent and even Kemmy show a certain direction taken by the peoples dissatisfaction with the established political Parties of capital and state, the general political body of the working people is not responding to these reformist calls.

And this is particularly obvious in the shattering defeat suffered by the leadership of the anti-imperialist movement in these elections. Their hopes of recuperating the massive H-Block issue of last June were dashed. Provisional Sinn Fein, the IRSP and even McAliskey got nowhere near getting a seat. Now, they may try to rationalise this reverse by talking of 'first time' it will be better next time and other such banalities. But the truth of the matter is that electioneering by the anti-imperialist movement does not pay off.

The main reason for this is, in our opinion, because the developing dynamic of class politics in the 32 Counties is pushing people *out of the system*. People, especially our young, are being carried out of elections, out of the institutions, out of the factories by the prevailing forces in the society. 30 % of the people didn't vote this time. This is a dynamic we respect, are part of and want to encourage as part of our project of developing a mass autonomous anti-capitalist movement. The opposite is the case with our electioneering friends. They push people back into the system with a lot of talk about *representation*, *democratic rights hard won by our forefathers* etc. And when they reap the ridiculous results they deserve they then blame the people for being 'backward'. It's the political 'leadership' which is backward not the people!

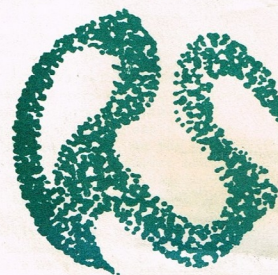
This doesn't mean, of course, that we don't recognise that at certain exceptional periods, like last year, elections can destabilise the system. That's why many many of our comrades canvassed last June in support of the prisoners. But this time around conditions had changed. The choice wasn't there...nobody wanted to vote aspiring politicians of the 'left' with no programme, no organisation worth talking about, no imagination and no hope of getting elected. Try to explain all that to Provisional 'hards', the INSPs or PD - you might as well talking to a wall.

Based on the above, we ABSTAINED from these elections. We continued to work on our ongoing projects with other comrades of the peoples movement, we consolidated some gains and, most important, we feel that our analysis was right. The maturity of the people is growing and there may come a day that parliamentary struggle will be included in the weapons of the revolution. Until then, we prefer to stand our ground, and say loud and clear

ELECTIONS ARE OVER - REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE GOES ON !!

To our readers

Thanks to all those who sent articles, subs, letters of support etc. The Editorial Collective has recently been enlarged to over a dozen comrades and interesting changes are soon coming to your regular Rebel. Deadline for issue 51: Friday March 16th



E.P. THOMPSON VISITS IRELAND IN MARCH



March 1st	St. Patrick's Maynooth
March 2nd	Dublin MANSION HOUSE 8p.m.
March 3rd	Galway
March 4th	Derry
March 5th	Belfast

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